

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the title of the invention with the following amended title:
METHOD FOR ~~PRODUCING~~ MANUFACTURING HOLLOW BLADES

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0001]:
FIELD OF THE INVENTION

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph:
[0001] The present invention relates to a method for manufacturing hollow blades, in particular for gas turbines, ~~according to the definition of the species set forth in claim 1~~ such as aircraft engines.

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0002]:
BACKGROUND

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0005]:
SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:
[0006] ~~This objective is achieved in that the method mentioned at the outset is further refined by the features set forth in the characterizing portion of claim 1.~~ In accordance with an embodiment of the present invention, at least one nick-minimizing structure is introduced in each case into the first element and the second element which form the two outer walls of the hollow blade to be manufactured, before assembling the same, together with the third element, to form a sandwich-type structure. In the method according to the present invention presented here, an SPF DB method for manufacturing hollow blades is provided, the hollow blades not having any strength-reducing, internal nicks a method for manufacturing hollow blades is provided which includes providing at least a first element, a second element, and a third element, wherein an inner side of each of the first and second elements has a planar recess. The method further comprises arranging the first, second and third elements one over another in a sandwich-type

structure, joining the first, second and third elements to one another at least in portions thereof by diffusion welding, and superplastically deforming the sandwich-type structure via an inflation processes, such that the first element forms a first outer wall of a hollow blade to be manufactured, the second element forms a second outer wall of the hollow blade to be manufactured, the third element forms a middle element of the hollow blade to be manufactured which extends in between the first and second outer walls, and a portion of the third element is spaced apart from the planar recesses.

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0009]:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please add the following new paragraph [0015.1]:

[0015.1] In accordance with an embodiment of the present invention, at least one nick-minimizing structure is introduced in each case into the first element and the second element which form the two outer walls of the hollow blade to be manufactured, before assembling the same, together with the third element, to form a sandwich-type structure. In the method according to the present invention presented here, an SPF DB method for manufacturing hollow blades is provided, the hollow blades not having any strength-reducing, internal nicks.

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0015.1]:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Please amend the heading on top of page 7 as follows:

~~PATENT CLAIMS:~~ WHAT IS CLAIMED IS: